

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AGRE-00 USIE-00 AID-05 EB-07 AF-08 ARA-06

EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 COME-00 ISO-00 TRSE-00 IOE-00

SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 INRE-00 NSCE-00 /109 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1559

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 19696

FODAG

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: FAO

SUBJECT: 70TH FAO COUNCIL -- SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM (SRV)

REF: ROME 19289

1. DELEGATION TALKS WITH DIRECTOR GENERAL, INDEPENDENT CHAIRMAN AND LEGAL COUNSEL LEAD US BELIEVE THERE IS CHANCE COUNCIL WILL "ACCEPT" REPORT (CL 70/5(A)) OF COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS (WHICH IS A COUNCIL COMMITTEE AND ADVISORY TO COUNCIL, NOT CONFERENCE) AND TAKE LESS THAN DEFINITIVE STAND ON SPECIFIC QUESTION OF SRV STANDING AS OF THIS DATE. IN OUR TALKS NO ONE HAS SERIOUSLY DISPUTED OUR CONTENTION THAT ONLY FAO CONFERENCE CAN DECIDE MEMBERSHIP ISSUES. HOWEVER, ALL AGREE, AS DO WE, THAT LEGAL ASPECTS WILL NOT BE DECIDING FACTOR IF ISSUE IS DEBATED ON THE FLOOR. REPORT CCLM PROVIDES EXCELLENT BASIS FOR COUNCIL SEATING OF SRV.

2. LEGAL COUNSEL HAS EXPRESSED PRIVATE PREFERENCE FOR PASSING ISSUE FROM COUNCIL WITH MINOR ATTENTION TO BE SETTLED EVENTUALLY THROUGH CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE OF 19TH CONFERENCE WHICH MEETS NOVEMBER, 1977 BUT RECOGNIZES THAT IS LONG PERIOD FOR THIS
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POLITICAL/EMOTIONAL MATTER TO AWAIT FINAL SETTLEMENT.

3. CRUX OF MATTERS SEEMS TO BE HOW FAO LEADERSHIP WOULD REGARD THE SRV, I.E. AS OBSERVER OR FAO MEMBER, IN INTERIM. IF THEY WOULD REGARD THEM AS "OBSERVERS" ON THE BASIS OF A COUNCIL REPORT WHICH ONLY "ACCEPTS" REPORT OF CCLM, BELIEVE WE SHOULD REMAIN SILENT WHEN ISSUE PRESENTED. THIS WOULD ACCORD WITH SECOND SENTENCE, PARA 1 OF US POSITION AND PERHAPS PREVENT DEBATE IN WHICH FORMAL DECISION OR RECOMMENDATION ON ACCEPTANCE OF SRV MEMBERSHIP WOULD BE CERTAIN. CHINA HAS ADVISED INDEPENDENT CHAIRMAN PRC WILL NOT SPEAK IF US DOES NOT DEBATE ISSUE.

4. DELEGATION ATTEMPTING CLARIFY WITH DIRECTOR-GENERAL EXACT STATUS WHICH SECRETARIAT WILL ACCORD SRV IF SCENARIO OUTLINED PARA 3 CAN BE OBTAINED. DIRECTOR-GENERAL AND INDEPENDENT CHAIRMAN ARE AWARE US WILL NEED RESERVE POSITION IF COUNCIL FORMALLY INDICATES THAT SRV IS NOW AN FAO MEMBER.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: NONE AT MOMENT UNLESS PARA 3 CAUSES DIFFICULTY. WILL ADVISE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL DISCUSSIONS. AMONG MANY UNCERTAINTIES IS QUESTION OF WHETHER SOME OF COUNCIL "RED HOTS", GUINEA FOR INSTANCE, WILL FEEL NEED BECOME INVOLVED. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS, RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: vogelfj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ROME19696
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760446-0601
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761278/aaaacpxq.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 ROME 19289
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vogelfj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <08 SEP 2004 by vogelfj>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 70TH FAO COUNCIL -- SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM (SRV)
TAGS: PORG, EAGR, VN, FAO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006